

News Items and Public Crime Summary for Week Ending October 2, 2010

Antilles – PM Emily De Jongh-Elhage: “Successful Visit to NY”

Netherlands Antilles PM Emily de Jongh-Elhage and Dutch PM Jan Peter Balkenende met with UNDP Administrator Helen Clarck. De Jongh-Elhage expressed her appreciation for the development assistance UNDP has provided to the Antilles since the seventies. There is no Standard Basic Agreement with UNDP since the Antilles are within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The UNDP has signed a US \$330,950 Capacity Development agreement for nation building in the Netherlands Antilles, last year; some of the projects are underway.

Also, the PM attended the Small Island Development States (SIDS) High-Level Review Meeting where Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon pledged continued United Nations support for SIDS as the nations strive to find solutions for their unique challenges, amid limited resources that could hamper their efforts to achieve globally agreed upon development targets. (Various media)

St. Maarten – Swearing-In Ceremony for Governor Eugene Holiday

The swearing-in ceremony for incoming St. Maarten Governor Eugene Holiday is scheduled on Tuesday, September 30, in the Netherlands. Holiday was appointed by Royal Decree.

Princess Juliana International Airport Director of the Operations Division Larry Donker will assume Holiday's position at the airport after he leaves.

Curacao – Schotte: “Island Not Ready For Independence”

Future Movement Curacao (MFK) political leader and the anticipated first PM of Curacao Gerrit Schotte stated that Curaçao is not ready for independence. MFK is targeting a coalition with the MAN party and the pro-independence Sovereign Party (PS).

“We cannot celebrate our new status within the Dutch Kingdom while people live in poverty and the Island is in a chaos. Nothing beats independence, but I know that is not possible right now. We will need help from the Netherlands, perhaps in another 10 or even 15 years we will be ready,” Schotte said. (Various media)

Statia – NuStar Energy Concerned About New Fiscal Regime

San Antonio-based NuStar Energy L.P. operates a storage and transshipment of crude oil and petroleum products facility in St. Eustatius.

A NuStar management team met with Dutch MPs and Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager during Dutch Parliament's Permanent Committee of Antillean and Aruban Affairs preparatory legislation consultations on Monday. They discussed the new fiscal regime for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba which will go into effect on January 1, 2011. St. Eustatius Business Association Chairman Koos Sneek stated in a reaction that the reintroduction of the profit tax would make the island unattractive for investors, because

surrounding islands offer large investors tax incentives such as tax holidays. (Daily Herald)

Curacao – Sovereign Party Named All Cabinet Level Candidates

Sovereign Party (PS) political leader Helmin Wiels has named his Minister candidates. Current Education Commissioner Rene Rosalia is the candidate become Education Minister, Former Island Governor Elmer “Kade” Wilsoe will be the (non-political) Justice Minister. Norman Girigorie is the intended Planning and Organization Minister. Current Finance Commissioner Ivar Asjes will become the Curacao President of Parliament. (Various media)

Antilles – Governor Goedgedrag in the Netherlands

Netherlands Antilles Governor Frits Goedgedrag is in the Netherlands from September 25-October 1, for business. Adèle P. van der Pluijm-Vrede is acting during his absence. (Government Press Release)

Curacao- Coast Guard NA&A Seizes 27.5 Kilos of Cocaine

The Coast Guard Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (CGNAA) seized 27.5 kilos of cocaine from a ship two miles off Curacao in cooperation with Curacao customs on Monday. The men tossed bales of cocaine overboard after they noticed a CGNAA vessel. The crew of four, possible Venezuelans was arrested. The alleged Venezuelan recipients of the cargo were arrested after customs officials noticed two men waiting in a car near Sonesta beach. (Various media)

Curacao\Bonaire – Jet Fuel Shortage Solution Sought

The Crude Distiller-3 (CD-3) at the Venezuelan State-owned Oil Company PdVSA-operated Isla refinery is down again. Isla Management announced that loss since March is approximately US \$750,000 a day. The BOO (Build, Own and Operate) plant - owned by Utility Company Aqualectra and Japanese Trading Company Marubini – was restarted in August, after being idle since March, continues to operate under capacity. There is sufficient fuel in stock to support the local market; only the jet fuel stock needs to be purchased from overseas. The Curacao Government and other companies involved are looking for solutions. (Various media)

Bonaire – One More Arrest in Zambezi Criminal Case

Former UPB party commissioner and former Head of the Department of Economic Affairs Jeffrey Levenstone (41) was detained in the ongoing “Zambezi” corruption and money-laundering case. His home and office were also searched. Also, UPB leader Ramonsito Booi and former commissioner Burney Elhage are suspects in the same case. (Various media)

Curacao – Name Change Bon Futuro Prison

The construction project of a new warehouse and an entry/exit building at the Bon Futuro Prison in Curacao is developing as planned. The US \$2.5 million project is funded by the Dutch government. Justice Minister announced a prison facility name change. The new prison name is Detention and Correction Center Curacao. (Various media)

Curacao – U.S. Consulate General Organizes Domestic Violence Seminar

Every year, the United States Consulate General to the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba organizes lectures under the U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program initiative. The program grants awards to American experts to present lectures, serve as consultants, or conduct workshops and seminars for professional audiences overseas. One of the programs the

Consulate organized this year is entitled: Domestic Violence – Women in Crisis. The U.S. Consulate General has invited Mrs. Maria Luisa Rivera-Albert to be the keynote speaker of the seminar which will be held at the University of the Netherlands Antilles in a two day\four topic seminar October 14-15, 2010. The seminar topics are social work, health care, psychology, and policy issues as they relate to understanding and assisting families experiencing domestic violence.

The co-organizers of the seminar are the Department of Justice, “Direktorado di Legislatshon i Asuntu Huridiko,” the Bureau “Vrouwenzaken” (Women’s Affairs), the Directorate “Sociale Ontwikkeling” (Social Development Directorate), “Stichting Kindermishandeling” (Child Abuse Agency), “Fundashon Sentro di Dama” (Women’s Centre), UNA, “Parket Officier van Justitie” (Prosecutor’s Office), Bureau “Slachtofferhulp” (Victim Assistance Bureau), the Central Police Department, and “Fundashon pa defende derechi di hende muhe i mucha (Foundation for the defense of women’s and children’s rights).

Keynote speaker Mrs. Rivera-Albert is the President of Mpowerment Works, a consulting firm designed to impact global change by empowering people and focusing on empowering the majority: “women”. Her extensive work experience in the nonprofit, government and private sectors has always been used to resolve justice and equality issues facing the world today. Ms. Rivera-Albert has over 30 years of combined educational, consulting, international and community development, and leadership development experience.

The purpose of this program is to develop strategies on Curacao for stronger advocacy, including networking, use of social media, and greater interaction between government and private sector while working hand-in-hand with these sectors. (Various media)

Aruba – Inspiring Keynote Speech Al Gore at Energy Conference

Former U.S. Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Al Gore presented an inspiring keynote speech at the “Aruba Goes Green – Our Future with Green Energy” conference on September, 29th. “Aruba Goes Green” brought together regional policy

makers and representatives from the energy industry and solar and wind energy suppliers who shared knowledge on state-of-the-art technologies in green energy. Finance, Communication, Utilities and Energy Minister Mike de Meza and PM Mike Eman announced that Aruba aspires, together with the Netherlands and the support of Al Gore, to start a Green Energy Research Center. Aruba has to become the green energy solutions development leader in the Caribbean, Eman stated. (Various media)

CURAÇAO

Crime September 24 – 30

On September 29, two men were abducted in Seru Fortuna by three masked vehicle occupants. They were taken to a secluded area, beaten, robbed and left behind (Extra, Amigoe).

ST. MAARTEN

Crime September 24 – 30

On September 27, a home owner in St. Peters was robbed by one man. The suspect fired two random shots upon leaving the premises. No injuries were reported. On September 29, a young man was abducted by three vehicle occupants in Cul de Sac. He was subsequently shot and killed. His body was found in Bush Road. The murder was allegedly linked to a long-standing conflict between two gangs (Daily Herald, St. Maarten Island Time, Amigoe).

"The Weekly Press Summary is a compilation of stories running in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruban press that is intended to alert readers about items of interest to them. There is no interpretation or verification of the facts contained therein."